GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:585
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
DIVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to crash in prices of agricultural output and rise in the cost of agricultural input farmers are getting adversely affected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether agricultural labour is being diverted to other fields which has resulted in decline in agricultural production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): Prices of agricultural output has not crashed but shown an increasing trend during 2004 and 2006.Yearly Wholesale Price Index (Base Year 1993-94=100) for foodgrains (Cereals and pulses) has increased from 176.6 in 2004 to 201.2 in 2006.Cost of production for major crops like wheat has increased only marginally from Rs.541.52 per quintal in 2005-06 to Rs.573.58 per quintal in 2006-07. The same for paddy has increased from Rs.557.60 per quintal in 2005-06 to Rs.569.45 per quintal in 2006-07.

(c)&(d): Both the number of agricultural labour and quantity of agricultural production increased over the years. As per Population Census 1991, the total number of agricultural labourers in the country was 85.99 million, which has increased to 106.78 million in 2001 Population Census. Production of foodgrains also increased from 198.36 million tonnes in 2004-05 to 219.32 million tonnes in 2006-07.